

ON THE QUESTION OF THE CORRECT NAME FOR THE
TYPE SPECIES OF THE GENUS "STEPHANURUS"
DIESING, 1839 (CLASS NEMATODA*, ORDER RHAB-
DITIDA), WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PLACING
OF CERTAIN NAMES ON THE "OFFICIAL LISTS"

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Introduction

1. The type species, which is also the only generally recognized species, of *Stephanurus* Diesing, 1839—a stronglyline genus placed by Chitwood and Chitwood (1937) in a subfamily STEPHANURINAE Railliet, Henry, and Bauche, 1919, of the family SYNGAMIDAE Leiper, 1912—is generally known as *Stephanurus dentatus* Diesing, 1839. It is the kidney worm of swine (*Sus scrofa*) and an organism of cosmopolitan distribution and considerable economic importance. Because of its prominence as a parasite of a domestic animal and the resulting close scrutiny it must suffer, it is rather surprising that in recent years the question of its specific name has not received more attention. It is now possible to say that certain facts in its history make apparent that the specific trivial name of Diesing (1839) can be used only if the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature invokes its plenary powers. A detailed history of earlier papers was given by Tayler (1900); and the essential points in the nomenclatorial history have been more recently reviewed in a paper originating from the Imperial Bureau of Agricultural Parasitology, England, and apparently written by B. G. Peters (i.e., B.G.P., 1931), but therein the nomenclatorial issues were not directly faced.

2. An earlier draft of the present paper was first submitted to the International Commission in 1945. In its original form it dealt with problems, certain of which have subsequently been clarified by action of the International Commission and of the International Congress of Zoology at the historic Paris meetings in July, 1948. The following month (in August, 1948) the author visited Mr. Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission; and it was at that time agreed between them that, if pertinent matters were still to be raised, the paper should be rewritten in light of decisions taken at the Paris Meetings and resubmitted. I have delayed doing this until the "Official Record of Proceedings of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature at their Session held in Paris in July, 1948" could be published. Now that such has been done in Volume 4 of *The Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*, I have reviewed the earlier draft and rewritten it. It is hereby resubmitted.

3. In the original draft a major problem, now essentially solved, dealt with questions of secondary homonymy (see 1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4:

* The classification preferred by the author is to consider Nematoda a Phylum divided into Classes Phasmidea (including the Order Rhabditida) and Aphasmidea.

118-125, for conclusions of the International Commission, as approved by the Congress, on the subject of homonyms in zoological nomenclature). It is my feeling, however, that despite this considerable clarification it is desirable that the Commission consider a case of secondary homonymy and render an *Opinion* applying the new regulations; in this way, as is pointed out later herein, one minor problem may be definitely solved. To ensure this end, I am reviewing in section II the main historical points and presenting in section III an analysis of the nomenclatorial problem.

4. A major consideration in regard to the name to be used for the kidney worm of swine still remains—namely, the question of a decision on the part of the Commission as to whether it might be better in the interests of stability to secure the use of the trivial name *dentatus* of Diesing, 1839, by exercise of plenary powers. Suggestions on this point are put forth in section IV.

5. Finally it is recommended in section V that certain generic names considered herein (particularly *Stephanurus* Diesing, 1839) be placed on the "Official List of Generic Names in Zoology" and certain trivial names on the "Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology."

II. Review of the Nomenclatorial History

6. The kidney worm of swine was first described by Diesing (1839) as *Stephanurus dentatus*, only species of a new genus *Stephanurus*. The modernness of Diesing's conception is apparent from the fact that today it is still generally known by that name. Indeed, if Diesing's nomenclatorial treatment had been host another strongyline species (Order Rhabditida) with the same trivial name *dentatus*. Confusion arises, however, because there exists from the same host another strongyline species (Order Rhabditida) with the same trivial name, namely, one of the nodular worms of swine, now known as *Oesophagostomum dentatum* (Rudolphi, 1803) Molin, 1861 (originally *Strongylus dentatus* Rudolphi, 1803). Because of the fact that all strongyline worms with relatively well-developed bursae in the male were grouped by many nineteenth century helminthologists into one or two genera, i.e., *Strongylus* Müller, 1780, and *Sclerostoma* Rudolphi, 1809, it would not be surprising if at one time or another both *Stephanurus dentatus* and *Oesophagostomum dentatum* were to be included under a single genus. This has actually occurred as is shown in the following historical summary.

7. The important facts in the nomenclatorial history of the kidney worm are as follows:—

- (i) Diesing (1839: 232-233), as already noted, described the kidney worm of swine as *Stephanurus dentatus*, only species of a new genus *Stephanurus*.
- (ii) Leidy (1856: 54) referred to nematodes, apparently one of the nodular worms of swine, briefly: *Sclerostoma dentatum*, Rud. Several specimens, male and female, were obtained from the liver of the hog, *Sus scrofa*."

- (iii) White (1859 : 428), described specimens of the kidney worm as *Stephanurus dentatus*, but apparently confused these with the worms reported by Leidy, as implied by the title of his paper : "Exhibition of specimens and figures of *Stephanurus dentatus*, Diesing, *Sclerostoma dentatum*? Rudolphi"; he thus implied that the kidney worm might be the same as *Strongylus dentatus* Rudolphi, 1803 (now known as *Oesophagostomum dentatum*).
- (iv) Verrill (1870a : 248-249 ; 1870b : 137-138 ; 1870c) described the kidney worm under the name *Sclerostoma pinguicola* ; he was ignorant of Diesing's description.
- (v) Dean (1874 : 62-63) described very well the gross pathology produced by *Strongylus* [= *Stephanurus*] *dentatus* without indicating whether it was Rudolphi's or Diesing's name he had in mind.
- (vi) Cobbold (1879 : 412) recommended the new name *Stephanurus nattereri* as a possible substitute for *Stephanurus dentatus* in order to avoid confusion with *Sclerostoma* [= *Oesophagostomum*] *dentatum*.
- (vii) De Magalhães (1894) published a study of the morphology of the kidney worm. He concluded that it belonged in the genus *Strongylus* and accepted for it the name "*Strongylus* (*Sclerostomum*) *pinguicola* (Verrill)."
- (viii) Railliet (1896 : 160) synonymized *Stephanurus* with *Sclerostoma* and accepted *Sclerostoma pinguicola* of Verrill (1870).
- (ix) Tayler (1900 : 626) also regarded *Stephanurus* Diesing, 1839, as a synonym of *Sclerostoma* Rudolphi, 1809. She accordingly accepted *Sclerostoma pinguicola* Verrill, 1870, as the correct name of the kidney worm and placed *Stephanurus dentatus*, *Stephanurus nattereri*, and *Strongylus dentatus* of Dean (1874) as synonyms thereof ; she regarded *Sclerostoma dentatum* of Leidy (1856) as what is now *Oesophagostomum dentatum*.
- (x) Neither de Magalhães, Railliet, nor Tayler specifically formed a combination between Diesing's trivial name *dentatus* and the generic names to which they in effect transferred it ; however, all three rejected it as a homonym.
- (xi) Drabble (1922, 1923) described the kidney worm under the new name *Sclerostomum renium*, claiming that it was distinct from "*Sclerostoma pinguicola* (syn. *Stephanurus dentatus*)."
- (xii) De Almeida (1928) described as *Stephanurus morai* specimens that Peters (1931) has shown also to belong to Diesing's species.
- (xiii) Peters (1931) and others, both previously and subsequently, reverted to the trivial name *dentatus* with their recognition of genus *Stephanurus* as independent.

III. Discussion of the Nomenclatorial Problems

8. It is apparent from the foregoing historical summary that :—

- (i) There are two species of nematodes parasitic in swine bearing the same trivial name, *dentatus*, but originally described in separate genera ;
- (ii) Apparent confusion existed between these two species or at least between their names in the works of certain early writers (White, Dean), but these writers did not specifically regard or reject the later trivial name, *dentatus* of Diesing, 1839, as a homonym of earlier trivial name, *dentatus* of Rudolphi, 1803.
- (iii) Later workers (de Magalhães, Railliet, Tayler) recognized both species and regarded them as congeneric, uniting them either in the genus *Strongylus* Müller, 1780, or in the genus *Sclerostoma* Rudolphi, 1809 ; they rejected the later name, *dentatus* of Diesing, 1839, as a homonym of the earlier, *dentatus* of Rudolphi, 1803, without, however, specifically forming a combination between the later trivial name and the new generic names to which it was transferred.

9. The International Congress at the Paris Meeting officially recognized for the first time two categories of homonymy—primary and secondary. Inasmuch as the two nematodes parastic in swine were originally described in separate genera, their trivial names cannot, in accordance with the definition of primary homonymy provided by the International Congress, be regarded as primary homonyms.

10. Under the definition of secondary homonymy drawn up by the International Commission at its Paris Meetings and subsequently approved by the Congress, a secondary homonym is to be regarded as having been rejected and hence permanently suppressed only if specifically recognised and rejected as such. This was not the case with either White (1859) or Dean (1874). White in effect implied, probably inadvertently, that the kidney worm of swine and that species of nodular worm occurring in the same host and originally given the trivial name *dentatus* by Rudolphi (1803) were conspecific. This synonymy was subsequently (and is at present) recognized to be untrue. Dean, in designating the kidney worm *Srongylus dentatus*, created a condition of secondary homonymy, but did not recognise and reject the trivial name *dentatus* of Diesing, 1839.

11. The position is quite otherwise in the case of de Magalhães (1894), Railliet (1896) and Tayler (1900), for each of these authors is to be regarded as having definitely recognized, in their estimation, *dentatus* of Diesing, 1839, to be a secondary homonym of *dentatus* of Rudolphi, 1803, and as having accordingly rejected the former. It was decided by the Congress at Paris, on the recommendation of the Commission, that, wherever a trivial name is clearly rejected as a secondary homonym prior to midnight G.M.T., December 31st, 1950/January 1st, 1951, such rejection is to be accepted as valid, and the

trivial name in question is to be permanently suppressed. It is seemingly clear, therefore, that under this rule (to be formally constituted in an Article in the forthcoming edition of the *Règles Internationales de la Nomenclature Zoologique*), the specific trivial name *dentatus* of Diesing, 1839, is no longer available for the kidney worm of swine unless it is preserved by the International Commission under its plenary powers.

12. However, it has been my experience that some zoologists have held that homonymy does not exist unless a combination of generic and trivial name has been made so that identical specific names exist for two species, of which the trivial name of one (the later) then becomes a homonym. This would seem to be, as the Secretary of the International Commission might express it, a somewhat "ritualistic" requirement and not a necessary or even reasonable interpretation of the present rulings. However, in order to obviate any doubt, it is to be hoped that the International Commission will issue a ruling on this point in the form of a *Declaration*.

IV. The Correct Name for the Kidney Worm of Swine

13. As de Magalhães (1894), Railliet (1896), and Tayler (1900) are presumably to be regarded as having rendered Diesing's *dentatus* unavailable, the next trivial name to be considered for the kidney worm of swine is the subjective synonym *pinguicola* of Verrill, 1870. There is no prior usage of this trivial name in the Nematoda, and therefore the kidney worm would become *Stephanurus pinguicola* (Verrill, 1870) comb. nov. The names *Stephanurus nattereri* Cobbold, 1879, *Sclerostoma renium* Drabble, 1923, and *Stephanurus morai* de Almeida, 1928, would fall as subjective synonyms thereof.

14. The synonymy of *S. pinguicola* would be as follows :

Stephanurus pinguicola (Verrill, 1870) comb. nov.

Synonyms :

Stephanurus dentatus Diesing, 1839 ; *Sclerostoma pinguicola* Verrill, 1870 ; *Strongylus dentatus*, of Dean, 1874 [*non Strongylus dentatus* Rudolphi, 1803] ; *Stephanurus nattereri* Cobbold, 1879 ; "*Sclerostomum pinguicola* Verrill, 1870," of de Magalhães, 1894 ; *Strongylus (Sclerostomum) pinguicola* (Verrill, 1870) de Magalhães, 1894 ; *Sclerostoma renium* Drabble, 1922 ; *Stephanurus morai* de Almeida, 1928.

15. The question now arises as to whether the foregoing change is in the best interests of nomenclatorial stability and uniformity. *Stephanurus dentatus* Diesing, 1839, is a widely used name for an important parasite. Might it not be the wiser procedure to seek to establish this name through an appeal to the International Commission's plenary powers ?

16. A solution to the foregoing problems would appear to me to be best realized by canvassing a representative group of parasitologists concerned with problems of nomenclature. As one such person, I should myself favour

permitting the regular application of the *Règles* to this case for the reasons that :

- (i) The occurrence of two relatively closely related parasitic species having the same trivial name (*Stephanurus dentatus* and *Oesophagostomum dentatum*) in the same host should, if possible, be avoided.
- (ii) I am not convinced that the dislocation of a change in the trivial name (*dentatus*) of the kidney worm of swine would be serious in view of the stability of its generic name (*Stephanurus*).
- (iii) The suspension of the *Règles* in this case would, I believe, tend to weaken their stability in the long run, for the issue, without the invocation of plenary powers, is apparently clear-cut from the nomenclatorial viewpoint and would thereby serve as a good example of the application of the new rulings on secondary homonymy.

V. Recommendation for the placing of certain names on the " Official Lists "

17. At the present time the genus *Stephanurus* Diesing, 1939, has but one recognized species, originally designated *Stephanurus dentatus* by Diesing (1839). The genus has been generally recognized as independent for almost 50 years. It therefore seems desirable that its name be placed on the " Official List of Generic Names in Zoology " with type species *Stephanurus dentatus* Diesing, 1839 (subjective synonym, *Sclerostoma pinguiicola*, Verrill, 1870 = *Stephanurus pinguiicola* (Verrill, 1870) comb. nov.). Depending upon the ultimate decision of the International Commission, either the trivial name *dentatus* of Diesing will (under plenary powers) be validated for the kidney worm of swine, or it must be rejected. In either event, the valid trivial name of the species should be included in the " Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology." I therefore recommend that on the basis of the action of the International Commission either the trivial name *dentatus* Diesing, 1839 (as published in the binominal combination *Stephanurus dentatus*) or the trivial name *pinguiicola* Verrill, 1870 (as published in the binominal combination *Sclerostoma pinguiicola*) be so placed. If *dentatus* of Diesing, 1839, is not preserved under plenary powers, it must be placed on the " Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Trivial Names in Zoology."

18. Finally, in order that the decision to be taken in the present case may be as complete as possible, I recommend that, when stabilizing the name of the kidney worm of swine, the International Commission should also stabilize the name of the common nodular worm of swine discussed in the present paper. The earliest name for this form, as now accepted generally, is *Strongylus dentatus* Rudolphi, 1803. Careful check in Stiles and Hassall's *Index-Catalogue of Medical and Veterinary Zoology. Subjects: Roundworms* . . . (1920, U.S. Hyg. Lab. Bull. 114) reveals no problem of homonymy as regards this name. However, there are now known four species of nodular worms in domestic swine, and in all probability it cannot be stated with absolute certainty to which of these Rudolphi's name applied. It seems, nevertheless, almost

almost certain that the commonest of these, to which the trivial name *dentatum* (in the binominal combination *Oesophagostomum dentatum*) is now universally applied, was one of the species, probably the only one, studied by him. Accordingly, I propose that the International Commission place on the "Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology," along with the name recognized by them as valid for the kidney worm of swine, whichever that may be, the trivial name *dentatus* Rudolphi, 1803 (as published in the binominal combination *Strongylus dentatus*), an indication being made by the International Commission at the same time that this trivial name is to be identified by reference to the definitive description and figures published for this species by Goodey (1924, pp. 1-14, figs. 1-15).

19. As already explained, this species is currently referred by specialists to the genus *Oesophagostomum* Molin, 1861, of which it is regarded as type by reason of its selection by Stiles and Hassall (1905, : 124).*

I therefore also ask that the generic name, *Oesophagostomum* Molin, 1861 (type species, by subsequent selection (Stiles and Hassall, 1905): *Strongylus dentatus* Rudolphi, 1803, defined as already indicated) be placed on the "Official List of Generic Names in Zoology."

VI. Summary

20. A survey of the nomenclatorial history and status of the species generally known as *Stephanurus dentatus* Diesing, 1839, the kidney worm of swine, has been presented. Evidence has been given that, under the recent rulings given by the Congress on the advice of the International Commission at the Paris Meetings, *dentatus* of Diesing, 1839, must be considered as an invalid secondary homonym of the trivial name *dentatus* of Rudolphi, 1803, by reason of the rejection of the former by Railliet and others when the two species so named were placed by them in a single genus (*Strongylus* Müller, 1780, or *Sclerostoma* Rudolphi, 1809).

21. The fact that in no case did the authors specifically rejecting the trivial name *dentatus* of Diesing, 1839, make actual combinations of this trivial name

* Prior to the clarification of Article 30 by the XIII International Congress of Zoology at Paris in July, 1948, it would have been a matter of doubt whether the action by Stiles and Hassall constituted a valid selection of the above species as type of *Oesophagostomum* (a) because Molin (1861) included *Strongylus dentatus* Rudolphi, 1803, in this genus only by (i) referring (p. 443) to it once in the discussion of the genus as *Oesophagostomum dentatum*, but (ii) later in the discussion of individual species merely citing (p. 445) the name *Strongylus dentatus* as a synonym of a newly named nominal species (*Oesophagostomum subulatum* Molin, 1861) and because (b) Stiles and Hassall, when making their selection for the genus *Oesophagostomum*, cited the type as follows: "*O. subulatum*=*O. dentatum* (Rudolphi)." Inasmuch as *O. subulatum* was recorded by Stiles and Hassall as the more recent of the two names, one is, I feel, entitled to interpret their action as selecting *O. dentatum* (= *Strongylus dentatus*) as type, of which *O. subulatum* was a synonym. Under the decision of the XIII International Congress of Zoology already referred to, it may be seen that *Strongylus dentatus* Rudolphi, 1803, is to be regarded as an originally included species of the genus *Oesophagostomum* Molin, 1861, and that the method used by Stiles and Hassall in selecting the type species of this genus constitutes a valid selection of Rudolphi's species (see 1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.*, 4: 179-180—points (3) (a) and (3) (b)).

with the generic names mentioned in paragraph 20 and thus did not actually create the homonymous combinations raises a point not explicitly covered in the emended rulings formulated by the International Commission at the Paris Meetings to cover secondary homonymy. Some zoologists have held that an actual citation of a homonymous specific name is necessary before the trivial name involved can be rejected as a homonym. The International Commission is hereby requested to render a *Declaration* on this point.

22. It is hoped that before the International Commission reach a decision, it will have before it the news of representative parasitologists on the question whether the trivial name *dentatus* of Diesing, 1839, should be preserved by invocation of the Commission's plenary powers. Arguments are presented in opposition to suspension of the rules in this case.

23. It is recommended to the International Commission that the name *Stephanurus* Diesing, 1839 (type species, by monotypy: *Stephanurus dentatus* Diesing, 1839 [subjective synonym, *Sclerostoma pinguicola* Verrill, 1870 (= *Stephanurus pinguicola* (Verrill, 1870) comb. nov.)] be placed on the "Official List of Generic Names in Zoology." At the same time, the valid trivial name of the kidney worm of swine should be placed on the "Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology." This will be either *dentatus* Diesing, 1839 (as published in the binominal combination *Stephanurus dentatus*), if preserved by the International Commission through their plenary powers, or, if not, *pinguicola* Verrill, 1870 (as published in the binominal combination *Sclerostoma pinguicola*). I hereby recommend the latter procedure.

24. The trivial name *dentatus* of Rudolphi, 1803, is the generally accepted name for the most common of the four nodular worms of swine. This nominal species is also type of the genus *Oesophagostomum* Molin, 1861. In order to complete the present case, it is recommended to the International Commission that the name *Oesophagostomum* Molin, 1861 (type species, by subsequent selection (Stiles and Hassall, 1905): *Strongylus dentatus* Rudolphi, 1803) also be placed on the "Official List of Generic Names in Zoology" and that at the same time the trivial name *dentatus* Rudolphi, 1803 (as published in the binominal combination *Strongylus dentatus*) be placed on the "Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology" and identified with the definitive description and figures of Goodey (1924, pp. 1-14, figs. 1-15).

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ON THE QUESTION OF THE DESIRABILITY OF RETAINING THE TRIVIAL NAME "DENTATUS" DIESING, 1839 (AS PUBLISHED IN THE BINOMINAL COMBINATION "STEPHANURUS DENTATUS") AS THE TRIVIAL NAME OF THE KIDNEY WORM OF SWINE (CLASS NEMATODA, ORDER RHABDITIDA): AN APPEAL TO PARASITOLOGISTS FOR VIEWS ON THE QUESTION RAISED BY DR. ELLSWORTH C. DOUGHERTY

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1. In his application to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature on the subject of the trivial name properly applicable to the kidney worm of swine (the type species of the genus *Stephanurus* Diesing), Dr. Ellsworth C. Dougherty discusses two separate questions: first, the question whether the trivial name *dentatus* Diesing, 1839 (as published in the binominal combination *Stephanurus dentatus*), the first trivial name published for that species, should be regarded as an invalid name on the ground that it is a junior secondary homonym of the trivial name *dentatus* Rudolphi, 1803 (as published in the binominal combination *Strongylus dentatus*), the two species having at different times been placed by different authors in the same genus; second, the question whether, if *dentatus* Diesing, 1839, is, under the *Règles*, a name which must be rejected as a secondary homonym of *dentatus* Rudolphi, 1803, it is desirable that the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature should use its plenary powers for the purpose of validating the name *dentatus* Diesing, 1839, as the name of the kidney worm of swine.